

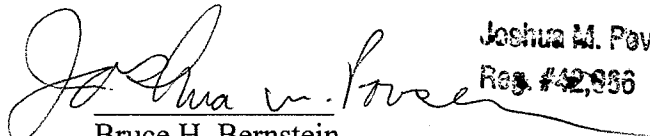
## CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of pending claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 13-19, and 22-27 be withdrawn, and that an indication of the allowability of claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 13-19, and 22-27 be provided in the next Official communication.

This amendment is made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made by this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephen Mark MUELLER et al.

  
Joshua M. Pavsner  
Reg. #42,886  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191